

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**
– Northern Division –

SEAN JEFFREY THOMSON

Plaintiff,

v.

DETECTIVE STEPHEN MARTIN,
OFFICERS JOHN DOE 1-10, and
THE BALTIMORE CITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Defendants

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Civil Action No.: WDQ 1:02-CV-1989

**DEFENDANT STEPHEN MARTIN
QUESTIONS TO BE SUBMITTED ON VOIR DIRE**

Summary of Facts

On or about March 28, 2002, at approximately 10 p.m., Sean Jeffrey Thompson was arrested by officers of the Baltimore City Police Department and transported to the Department's Southwest District office where he was initially placed in a holding cell. At some time between approximately 11 p.m., March 28, 2002, and 12 a.m., March 29, 2002, Thompson was removed from the holding cell and transferred to an interrogation room, where his right wrist was handcuffed to a table. Defendant Martin, in his capacity as a Baltimore City Police Officer, entered the interrogation room and interrogated Thompson concerning an alleged crime. During this interrogation Martin and Thompson were not the only individuals in the interrogation room, as Detective Michelle McClosky was also present.

Detectives Martin and McClosky brought Thompson into the interrogation room and that once they read him his rights, he refused to be interviewed and was turned over to Officer Kahler for transportation to Central Booking. The entire encounter lasted less than five minutes, and Detective Martin had no other contact with Mr. Thompson and did not have any physical altercation with him.

When custody was transferred to Officer Kahler, Mr. Thompson was uninjured and did not complain of any injuries or altercations between he and Detective Martin.

Detective Martin specifically denies the substance of Plaintiff's allegations against him, and denies that he either verbally or physically assaulted Thompson or had any contact with him other than the brief encounter when they entered the interrogation room.

1. Has any member of the panel any knowledge, from any source, about the incident involving the parties to this action?

2. Does any member of the panel know, or is a member of the panel a friend of, or have any knowledge of, the parties to this action: Plaintiff Sean Jeffrey Thompson and Defendant Stephen Martin?

3. Does any member of the panel know, or is a member of the panel a friend of, or have any knowledge of, the following persons:

Sean Jeffrey Thompson

Stephen Martin

Michelle McClosky

Marc Kahler

Robert Neuens

Torrence D. Barbouro

4. Plaintiff, Sean Jeffrey Thompson is represented by Robert S. Brennen and the law firm of Miles & Stockbridge. Does any member of the panel know Mr. Brennen or this law firm or been represented or opposed by them?

5. Defendant, Stephen Martin is represented by Troy Priest and the law firm of Brown

and Sheehan, LLP. Does any member of the panel know Mr. Priest or this law firm or been represented or opposed by them?

6. Has any member of the panel, or any close friend or relative, ever been a plaintiff, or called as a witness by a plaintiff, in any civil action against a police officer?

7. Has any member of the panel, or any close friend or relative, ever been arrested, detained, or charged with any offense by any police officer?

8. Does any member of the Jury panel, or his or her immediate family, have a bias against police officers?

9. Does any member of the Jury panel or his/her immediate family feel that a police officer is automatically liable for injuries or damages sustained by anyone who claims that their rights were violated?

10. Is there any member of this Jury who by reason of any education, training or experience may have some knowledge with respect to when and under what circumstances a police officer may determine that probable cause exist to arrest a person?

11. Is there any member of this Jury who by reason of any education, training, or experience may have some knowledge with respect to the procedures the police must follow when arresting a suspect?

12. Is there any member of this Jury who by reason of any education, training, or experience may have some knowledge with respect to when the police can arrest a suspect without a warrant?

13. Has any member this Jury, his/her immediate family or a close personal friend ever been detained or arrested by a police officer under circumstances which caused you to form

the belief that the arrest or detention was improper in any way?

14. Is there any member of this Jury personally witnessed any act of a police officer in which you formed a belief that the officer's actions were unreasonable or unnecessary?

15. Has any member of the panel, or any close friend or relative, ever made a complaint against any police officer?

16. Has any member of the Jury panel, or his or her immediate family, ever been a party to a lawsuit alleging police misconduct?

17. Has any member of the panel formed any preconceived notions about the general validity of claims of police misconduct?

18. Has any member of the panel formed any preconceived notions with regard to the Baltimore City Police Department specifically?

19. Has any member of the panel read any newspaper or magazine accounts or seen or heard any radio or television reports concerning alleged misconduct or improper practices by the Baltimore City Police Department?

20. Has any member of the panel read any newspaper or magazine accounts or seen or heard any radio or television reports concerning alleged misconduct or improper practices by members of any police department?

21. Has any member of the panel or close friend or relative ever been a member of, or affiliated with, any voluntary organization which investigates complaints or allegations of police officers to police departments or which styles itself a civil liberties organization?

22. Have you, or has any member of your family or any close friend ever held a job in (a) law enforcement; (b) a government agency; (c) the state or local police; or (d) a federal law

enforcement agency such as the F.B.I. or the D.E.A.?

23. Have you or any member of your family or friends been employed or worked for Baltimore City, Maryland? If so, who, when and in what capacity?

24. Does your job cause you to work with any law enforcement officer or agency?

25. With respect to questions 14-16, if answered in the affirmative, would this relationship cause you to sympathize with, give greater credibility to, or in any manner favor the defendants because they, too, are law enforcement officers?

26. Some of the witnesses in the case, including the defendants, are police officers. In light of this fact, I would like to ask you this question: If one of these law enforcement officers, or the defendant who is a law enforcement officer, were to say that a certain thing happened or that it happened in a certain way, and another witness who is not a law enforcement officer testified that it did not happen at all, or that it happened in a different way, would you believe the law enforcement officer simply because he was a law enforcement officer?

27. Do you have an opinion about which is more important -- law and order -- or preserving everyone's constitutional rights? If so, what is your opinion?

28. This is a lawsuit brought by a private citizen against members of the police department. Do you feel that citizens who believe that they have been treated illegally or unfairly have a right to bring suit against police officers?

29. Would you require Mr. Thompson to prove his case by anything more than a preponderance of the evidence, because he is charging Defendant Martin with a violation of his constitutional rights?

30. If, after hearing the evidence and the instructions of the judge, you found that

these police officers had violated Mr. Thompson's rights, would anything cause you to hesitate to make the defendants pay money damages to the person suing him? If so, what?

31. If you were selected as a juror in this case, do you know of any reason why you could not sit as an impartial juror?

32. Do you feel that it may be improper that a person should be compensated for pain or for emotional and mental distress that another person wrongfully causes him?

33. If the judge were to instruct you that such compensation were proper under the law, would you have any hesitation about making such an award if the evidence warranted it?

34. Would it be embarrassing to you or your family if you sat on the jury in this case and the jury found the defendant police officer's liable?

35. Do you belong to any veterans organizations? If so, which ones and how frequently do you attend meetings or functions?

36. Do you belong to any voluntary organizations? If so, to which groups do you belong and how frequently do you attend meetings or functions?

37. Is there any member of the panel who for any reason feels that he or she, because of some event in their lives, could not fairly try a case such as this?

38. Have any of you sat as a juror in a civil rights case before?

39. Do any of you have formal legal training? If so, do you currently practice law? For whom do you practice? What type of law does your practice or your firm's practice involve?

40. Is any member of the prospective jury panel or any member of their immediate family a stockholder in or employed by any company which, in whole or in part, is engaged in the casualty or liability insurance business?

41. Has any member of the prospective jury panel ever been a defendant in any civil suit? [Specific inquiries are requested to be made at the bench.]

42. Is there any member of the prospective jury panel who believes, for any reason, that money damages should not be awarded as compensation to persons as a result of personal injuries? [Specific inquiries are requested to be made at the bench.]

43. Has any member of the panel, or close friend, relative or member of your immediate family, ever had an experience with the courts, lawyers or judges which you feel would make it difficult for you to be a fair and impartial juror?

44. As a juror you will take an oath to reach a fair and just verdict. Would you be able to follow that oath in this case and give Mr. Thompson fair trial?

45. Has any member of the panel have any difficulty in making a decision on the facts of this case only, putting aside all considerations of any other police related occurrences, and treating this matter strictly as a determination of the claims between the individuals involved in this case?

46. Do you feel that there is any reason whatsoever why you might not be able to objectively, dispassionately, and impartially listen to all of the arguments in this case, with no predispositions toward either party and with a completely open mind and after render a fair verdict based upon you evaluation of all the evidence presented?

47. Mr. Thompson is presently incarcerated for reasons unrelated to this case. Would any member of the panel have difficulty finding in his favor because he is presently incarcerated.

Respectfully submitted,

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